## President Backs CIA in Viet Nam

## PRESIDENT KENNEDY

By Marguerite Higgins Of The Herald Tribung Staff

WASHINGTON.

President Kennedy yesterday rejected as "wholly untrue" persistent rumors that the Central Intelligence Agency had done some free wheeling in South Viet Nam. On the contrary, the President said, the agency has been doing a good job."

The President was responding to speculation about alleged insubordination of the CIA, arising in part from the reported transfer from Saigon of John Richardson the agency's director there.

In troubled South Viet Nam, 13 American service men were almost certainly dead after plane and helicopter crashes in a mountainous jungle area 380 miles north of Salgon. It was the worst U. S. disaster in the bitter struggle against the Communist Viet Cong guerrillas.

Mr. Kennedy singled out Mr. Richardson as a "dedicated public servant." The President said he had personally gone over the CIA record in Viet Nam for the past nine months and had satisfied himself that the agency had "never done anything but support" Washington's polic

The President also did his emphatic best to close the books on press reports from Saigon and Washington tha policy rifts within the Administration are continuing.

"There is no disagreement," the President said, amon top officials of the Pentagon, the CIA and the State Department on our basic policy, in the wake of the McNamara-Taylor mission to Viet Nam.

This policy is to get on with the war and rely on diplomacy and persuasion-rather than on a coup d'etaito bring about liberalization of President Ngo Dinh Diem

The President conceded that there had been no sub regime. stantive changes in Viet Nam since his TV interview's month ago in which he called for "changes in policies and perhaps personnel" inside Viet Nam.

It is authoritatively learned that the White House and the State Department have come to regret that statement, because it publicly placed impossible demands on Mr. Diem to bow to American pressure and because it attempted unrealistically to compel President Diem of Ngo Dinh Nhu.

Until the President's press conference, the CIA ha taken the position that Mr. Richardson merely had been called "home for consultations." But at his conference the President used the term "transfer," indicating that the dedsion to move Mr. Richardson out of Saigon had been taken.

The reasons have not been spelled out publicly. B privately officials state that they have to do in part with the advent of a new and tougher phase in American policie

toward Viet Nam. Mr. Richardson, officially listed as First Secretary of th U. S. Embassy in Salgon, had been identified with the previous Kennedy administration policy, of seeking to establish the most friendly relations with the Diem regime. Previous attempts to liberalize the regime were—on Washington orders done directly through dipiomatic channels.

Washington's confidence in this policy was ba shaken when, despite U. S. pressure, the Diem regime Aug 21 raided and smashed up pagodas and arrested Buddhis ARAKO VOG Inois Released 999/09/67 vigorous anti-Diem campaign.

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Since these and other repressive measures instituted by Mr. Diem in August, the Administration has shifted to policles of overt public pressure, including a slowdown of certain types of economic aid.

It would be logical therefore, officials argue, to replace Mr. Richardson with a new official whose appointment would in itself bring home to the Diem regims the change in Washington polloy.

In South Viet Nam's highland jungles and in 13

American homes 9,000 miles away the real always lonely war for the future of this Southeast Asian nation spoke for itself yesterday. for itself yesterday.

Missing and almost certainly dead in the worst U.B. disaster since President Kennedy ordered all-out military support for Ngo Dinh Diem's fight against the Communist Viet Cong guerrillas are 13 American service men, lost in plane and helicopter crashes in the jungle near Da Nang, 380 miles north of Saigon.

Three Vietnamese soldiers were also killed, and American and a Victnamese injured in a bizarre series of events which turned a rescue mission into a tragedy.

The disaster brought to 128 the toll of Americans lost in the struggle which Secretary of Defense Robert S. Mc-Namars and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor predicted last week may be brought near a successful conclusion by the end of 1965.

More than 14,000 U. S. military advisers are in South Viet Nam, and Secretary McNamara and Gen. Taylor said some of these might even be withdrawn by Christmas this year, if all goes well.

It didn't go well in the past two days.

The disaster began late Tuesday when U. S. Air
Force Capt. Dean A. Wadsworth, of Cotulle, Tex., an "adviser" who was piloting a T-28 bomber-fighter because of a shortage of Vietnamese personnel, went on a divebombing raid on a Communist stronghold in the mountainous jungle near the Laotian border.

Capt. Wadsworth's plane crashed and exploded and he and a Vietnamese companion apparently died instantly. The U. S. military command, informed of the crash by eyewitnesses in other craft, sent out two Marine hell-CIA PROPOSE OF THE OF THE OWN OF THE THE THE MEN